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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. The Prague telephone network is divided into three main groups:
 - a. The public network. This has an automatic central with a five digit system for the area within the city. Service is expanded to the immediate surrounding area of Prague (so-called Greater Prague) by means of a six-digit system of two letters and four numbers, for example: RH 87-44.
 - b. The so-called Vltava secret network with a four-digit system. The central of this system is automatic for calls between individual stations of the network. For calls to other networks, the connection is not automatic and is made exclusively through the central of the system, just as with long distance calls on regular networks through the central.
 - c. The secret Communist Party telephone network, which has an automatic central with a two- and three-digit system. Calls are possible only between stations of this network. It is not possible to connect this network with the public telephone network. However, it is possible to make a non-automatic connection with the Vltava network through the central.
2. Many numbers of the public network are "hidden" numbers, which are not listed in the telephone directory and which must not be given out by the information service of the telephone central in the event of an inquiry. In case of necessity, the postal central arranges the connection for the inquirer by informing the holder of the hidden number that he is being called by "so-and-so" and asking him to be connected with the caller.
3. In case of need the public telephone system can be monitored automatically. Monitoring of conversations is entrusted to a special independent department of the postal central under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of National Security. According to our latest information, however, it is possible to disconnect a telephone from the monitoring system by the following method: after dialing the required number and after the person answers at the other end, one dials the numeral "1"; the call is not interrupted thereby but it is immediately and safely disconnected from the monitoring system. This possibility of protecting oneself from being overheard is known to a very limited circle of people.

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4. The Vltava secret telephone network provides undisturbed telephone communication (excluding the possibility of connecting undesirable persons to the line) between prominent political, government, and Party officials and among important political and state offices. For internal communication between individual stations of this network, the network has its own automatic telephone central arranged on a four-digit system. Furthermore, it is possible, by dialing a certain connecting number, to make an automatic connection with the internal telephone network of several important ministries and central offices. The internal telephone networks of the following ministries are connected to this system: Foreign Affairs, National Security, National Defense, and Foreign Trade.
5. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has a span of four-digit numbers from 3100 to 3499 available for its internal network. The number of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the public network is 093. The numbers from 093 to 098 are the only three-digit numbers connected to the regular five-digit Prague telephone network. Only the following numbers are connected to the Vltava network: 093, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; 095, the central of the Vltava network; 096, the Ministry of National Security; 097, the Ministry of Foreign Trade; and 098, the Ministry of National Defense.
6. If one calls the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from the regular public telephone network (that, by dialing 093), the central answers "Zamini". The caller then gives the name of the person he is calling or the number of the extension (one of the numbers from 3100 to 3499).^{*} In calling from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the regular public telephone network, one must dial "0" to obtain a direct connection to the public network and then select the regular five-digit number. This connection is automatic. In calling any of the ministries connected to the Vltava network, one must dial the connecting number of the appropriate ministry; for example, 4246 is the connecting number of the Ministry of National Security. This number connects one with the central of the office concerned, which makes the connection to the person requested. There is no automatic connection except to the public network. The reason for this arrangement is that it excludes the possibility of any outsider listening to conversations and it speeds up the connection, because the central connecting the ministries to the public network is overloaded and it is very difficult to get a connection.
7. The Vltava network itself is directly connected to all the above-mentioned internal telephone networks of ministries and offices; it makes possible automatic connection with any of its stations by dialing the connecting number of the internal network concerned without having to go through the central. The internal telephone network of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs can be reached from the Vltava network without dialing a connecting number. One sometimes speaks of the Vltava-Cernin network, named from the building of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where the main operating central of the Vltava network is also located. The telephone central of this network is located on the third floor of the SIA building in Prague I, Nabrezi Na Frantisku.
8. In calling a member of the Vltava network from a number on the public network, one must first dial the number 095. The central answers either by giving its own number or by announcing "Cernin central". There are two methods of asking for a further connection. One may request connection with a certain person by giving his name, for example: "Please connect me with Mr. (or Comrade) A". In this case the central always asks who is calling and asks the caller to wait a moment. In the meantime the central gets in touch with the person concerned, tells him that Mr. (or Comrade) B is calling him, and inquires whether it may connect him. If the answer is in the affirmative, the connection is made. In case the person called does not wish to be connected, the central usually informs the caller that the person called does not answer. The central is strictly forbidden to connect a caller directly without first asking the person called whether he wishes to speak with the caller. In any case, the central must ascertain the name of the caller and

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report it to the person called. This procedure may be avoided only if, in calling the central, one gives the number of the person on the Vltava network instead of his name. In this case the central may connect him directly without any preliminaries. This is because it is strictly forbidden to communicate numbers on the Vltava network to persons who are not themselves members of the network except in cases of great emergency; in such a case it is the direct responsibility of the person who gives out the number. Even if one gives the number to the central, the central may still make a preliminary inquiry. In such a case one can avoid the procedure by firmly answering the central's inquiry as to who is calling: "I am calling a number, not a name; therefore connect me without inquiry". With this procedure it is probable that one will get a direct connection. However, the central, without exception, must make an inquiry and report the call to the person called if the latter is an important political or Government figure (a member of the presidium of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia or a Minister).

9. The Vltava network is organized according to a system whereby its members cannot in all cases arbitrarily telephone among themselves without going through the central. The network is subdivided hierarchically by means of a certain digit system. Members of the network are assigned numbers according to their official position and importance. The range of the numbers of the network is relatively wide and includes numbers, exclusively of four-digits, in a series 3500-3999 and a second series 4500-4999. The numbers, however, do not correspond to the order of importance; the series 3500-3999 ranks above the series 4500-4999. This means that from series 3500-3999 it is possible to call all numbers from the second series automatically, while from the second series it is possible to call automatically in the first series only the numbers 3500-3699 from the numbers 4700-4999. All other connections must be requested through the central by dialing the number "5", the number of the central of the Vltava network. Numbers in the group 3500-3699 can automatically call any numbers they wish in the second series, 4500-4999, as well as numbers of their own group, 3500-3699. Furthermore, by means of a connecting number they can call all other connected networks. However, they cannot directly call numbers within the Vltava network above 3700. If they call any of these numbers, they must request connection through the central by dialing "5". The group 3700-3799 can automatically call all numbers of all lower-ranking groups and connected numbers by means of a connecting number. However, it cannot directly call higher ranking numbers in the main group of the Vltava network, which is 3800-3999. This so-called main group is reserved for leading political, state, government, and Party personalities. From this group one can automatically call (without calling the central) any numbers in the group itself and all numbers of lower ranking groups and connected networks, again by means of connecting numbers.**
10. There are special telephone directories for members of the Vltava network, of which there are three editions according to the numerical groups. Members of the group 3800-3999 receive a complete directory listing all the numbers of the Vltava network with the names of their holders. Ministers and other leading personalities with numbers in this group are given two telephone directories: a) the complete directory of the entire network, which is quite bulky and therefore can be used only in the office or at one's residence; and b) a special pocket directory in the form of a pocket notebook, containing all the most important numbers, that is, those in the group 3800-3999. The second edition of the directory is for the group 3700-3799; it contains all numbers except those of the group 3800-3999. The names of the holders of this latter group of numbers are listed in this directory, but instead of their numbers the number "5" is given, which means that connection must be made through the central. If a holder of a lower-ranking number tries to dial a number in a high-ranking group, he receives the busy signal after dialing the second digit. The third directory is for the groups 4500-4999 and 3500-3699; here also the names of the holders of numbers in higher ranking groups are given, followed by the number "5".

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11. The internal network of the Ministry of National Security has a three-digit system. It is connected to the Vltava network by means of the connecting number "6". This means that if one dials the number "6" at any station of the Vltava network one can then dial the appropriate three-digit number of the network of the Ministry of National Security and obtain a direct connection with the person desired. The only condition is that one must know the individual numbers of this network. A second possibility for internal connection with the Ministry of National Security is by dialing the central internal number of the Ministry, 4246. It is possible to obtain a connection with the Vltava line of the Ministry of National Security by dialing 096.
12. A similar method prevails in telephoning from the Vltava network to the internal network of the Ministry of National Defense. One dials the connecting number "8" and then directly dials the number on the internal network of the Ministry. The internal network of the Ministry of National Defense, however, has a four-digit system. It can be reached from the public telephone network through the central by dialing 098. There are some additional four-digit numbers connected indirectly to the Vltava network, which are lower than the 4500 group. It is possible to call the numbers in the series beginning with 4000 directly from the Vltava network, but these numbers cannot call the Vltava network directly, nor can they obtain a direct connection with the central of the Vltava network through "5"; they must call through the public network.
13. From the Vltava network it is possible to obtain an indirect but internal connection with the special Party telephone network, which has a two- and three-digit system. By dialing the number 4714 or 4715 on the Vltava network one can obtain an internal connection with the central of the Party network, which effects the desired connection by a procedure similar to that used in calling numbers of higher-ranking groups on the Vltava network. The highest Party officials have two-digit numbers on this network. The other members of the Central Secretariat, however, have three-digit numbers. The Party network is the only one which can make its own direct long-distance connections. It can make such connections with all the regional (Kraj) secretariats of the Communist Party, including those in Slovakia.
14. It is possible to make long-distance calls on the Vltava network through the central. Connection is made by the regular route of long-distance connections. However, it has an advantage in speed of connection and in the guarantee that the conversation will not be interrupted since it is treated as "official-urgent". It is possible to make official calls on the Vltava network within the countries of the Soviet orbit.
15. The Soviet Embassy in Prague is directly connected with the highest-ranking group of numbers of the Vltava network. Direct connection with the Soviet Embassy can also be made through the special internal Party telephone network. Furthermore, a direct line for long-distance connection with Moscow is reserved for the Soviet Embassy and the Central Secretariat of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. There have been instances when, in the case of urgent calls to the Czechoslovak Embassy in Moscow, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs requested the central (sic) for permission to telephone through it, whereby a connection was made within a few minutes. Normally, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would wait three to five hours for a connection. The line of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Embassy must have been a joint one, because it sometimes happened that one had to wait to make a call, the delay being explained by the fact that the Embassy was speaking on the line.

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16. The official responsible for the Vltava and internal telephone networks is the Deputy Minister of Posts, Engineer J. Reimoser. The technical director of the entire Vltava network is Engineer Lehovec, who has an office in the building of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (the Cernin central). He is a practical technician and co-designer of the system of the network. The address of the Vltava network is: "Ceskoslovenske posty -- II. sprava spoju -- Praha IV. -- Cerninsky palac" (Czechoslovak Posts -- Administration of Communications II -- Prague IV -- Cernin Palace).

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* Comment: Extensions include the following:

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3214, office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs with direct connection to the Minister through his secretary.

3556, office of the cabinet of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

3118, office of the Deputy Minister E. Stefan

3217, office of Deputy Minister Ing. Vladislav Borek

3111, 3112, central of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

3321, office of Deputy Minister Dr. Truda Sokaninova

** Comment: The Vltava network numbers appear to rank in the following descending order: 3800-3999, 3700-3799, 3500-3699, 4500-4999.

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